

Newbury REDInet, Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes

**Monday, July 13, 2020, 4:30 pm**

1. **Call to order:** 4:35 pm via Google Meet.
2. **Attending:** Lenice, Dan, Brad, Bonnie, Luke, Claude, Chip. Guests: Rick, Marrison, Chris Lynch, Linda as recorder.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** I need to add the word "Approved" in the text of the minutes, beginning with June 22. Members agree that it's okay to delete the Google Meet link data from minutes.
4. **Treasurers Report:**
  - a. No invoice received yet from Consolidated Communications, Inc. Claude has sent two requests to Jeff Austin.
  - b. A check was written to pay Linda Ide.
5. **Clerk's Report:** None.
6. **Subscriber survey:**
  - a. **Survey:** Dan Reviewed data. We currently have 46 responses. Board members have access to read only.
  - b. **Survey follow-up questions:** General agreement that information to public about the survey, and follow-up questions, should happen in next three weeks. Marissa offers to write press release, will email to board for comments, and distribute to media, list-serves. Brad suggests asking school board members to share with school families. Lenice will provide quotes for Marissa's press release regarding importance of high speed internet for school, work, tele-medicine, etc. Brad suggests a quote something like: "I can't work from home because my DSL is just too slow. If I want to work from home, I'll have to move to a different town with high-speed internet." Rick asks if Newbury Elementary School Principal Morgan Moore could help disseminate the survey or give us a quote. Claude will send press release to Danielle Cordy for the school. Dan will assign respondent information to individual board members to contact. Board members should only call their contacts once. To create a set of talking points, Claude and Brad will work together on a script based on a

letter Claude already has on-file. Claude also wants to deliver a paper flyer to people not residents of Newbury who might use the service. Claude will write a flyer and ask for comments.

- c. **Data storage and access:** Privacy concerns: Fortunately we don't collect sensitive data such as Social Security numbers, but emailing can be a problem with group- and blind-group responses. We must never do bulk emails to subscribers. If we find we need to do bulk emails, Dan suggests we should pay for Constant Comment. We can also contact by phone if easier for customer.
7. **Streaming issues:** Bonnie will create list of services one can access with high speed internet. We cannot provide costs for these services as this is beyond our abilities and scope. Brad will add existing speeds information. General agreement that we can provide generic, "broad picture" information to potential subscribers about streaming services available that could replace current Dish TV, land-line telephones, etc. to help them understand potential benefits and financial savings.
8. **Consultant, Matrix Design Group:** Chris Lynch of Matrix spoke to us but his connection broke up. Claude will call him tomorrow.
9. **dBase "subscribers 3":** None
10. **Membership in EC Fiber:** Rick has asked Brad to attend EC Fiber meetings as REDInet representative. Brad will respond by next meeting.
11. **Emergency Broadband Action Plan, EBAP:** Claude asks members to read it because the results are important to our funding. He notes that Green Mountain Power has changed its position and that they now appear to believe that fiber and internet are necessary. Perhaps they could provide schools with interconnection for this coming school year.
12. **Sub-Committee Reports:**
  - a. **Technology:** none
  - b. **Finance:**
    - i. **Broadband Innovation Grant 2019:** Claude has connected with a Montpelier insurance company and expects to receive a quote soon. This is necessary for us to use the State's grant money.

- ii. **USDA Grant:** Claude received an email with an apparent typo from the USDA. It's unclear and so he's awaiting a clarification about approval for Matrix Design Group.

13. **Other Business:** None. Meeting ends at 5:55 pm.

14. **Next REDI meeting:** Monday, July 27, Google Meet, 4:30 pm.

Submitted: Linda Ide, 7/13/2020